

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-3, 8-9, 15-16, and 22-25 are cancelled, and claims 26-32 are added. Claims 4-7, 10-14, and 17-21 remain pending in this application as amended herein. Accordingly, claims 4-7, 10-14, 17-21, and 26-32 are submitted for the Examiner's reconsideration.

A Notice of Appeal mailed May 30, 2007 was filed in the present application on June 4, 2007. A Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and a Petition for Extension of Time are submitted with the present Amendment. The Petition requests a two month extension to the period for filing a reply based on the June 4, 2007 filing date of the Notice of Appeal.

Claims 4-6, 10-13, and 17-20 have been amended solely to provide proper antecedence and to have the claims better conform to the requirements of U.S. practice. None of these amendments is intended to narrow the scope of any of these claims, and no new matter has been added by these amendments.

In the Office Action, claims 1-2, 5, 7-12, 14-19 and 21-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Owens (U.S. Patent No. 6,633,630) in view of Christy (U.S. Patent No. 6,301,554). Claims 1-2, 8-9, 15-16, and 22-25 are cancelled. Applicants submit that the remaining claims are patentably distinguishable over the cited references.

For example, claim 7 as amended calls for:

a message router operable to add a destination address to the message according to an associated piece of identification information contained in the message, to combine the message with another message having the destination address when the another message exists, the another message being received from another one of the plurality of local sites or from another one of the plurality of external sites, and to decompose the message into a plurality of messages corresponding to a plurality of a destination addresses when the piece of identification information

is associated with the plurality of a destination addresses[.]

Neither the relied on sections of Owens nor the relied on sections of Christy disclose or suggest combining a message with another message having the destination address when the another message exists, and neither the relied on sections of Owens nor the relied on sections of Christy disclose or suggest decomposing a message into a plurality of messages corresponding to a plurality of a destination addresses when a piece of identification information is associated with the plurality of a destination addresses.

It follows, for at least the above reasons, that neither the relied-on sections of Owens nor the relied-on sections of Christy, whether taken alone or in combination, disclose or suggest the combination defined in claim 7, and therefore claim 7 is patentably distinct and unobvious over the cited references.

Independent claims 14 and 21 each call for features similar to those set out in the above excerpt of claim 1. Therefore, each of claims 14 and 21 is patentably distinct and unobvious over the relied-on sections of Owens and Christy for at least the same reasons.

Claims 4-6 have been amended to depend from claim 7, claims 10-13 have been amended to depend from claim 14, and claims 17-20 have been amended to depend from claim 21. Therefore, each of claims 4-6, 10-13, and 17-20 is distinguishable over the cited references for at least the same reasons as the claim from which it depends.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

New claim 26-28 depend from claim 7, new claims 29-30 depend from claim 14, and new claims 31-32 depend from claim 21. Therefore, each of new claims 26-32 is distinguishable over the

relied-on art for at least the same reasons as its parent claim. Support for new claims 26-27 and 29-32 is found, e.g., on pages 37-40 of the specification. New claim 28 includes features similar to those set out in claims 10 and 17 and is similarly supported.

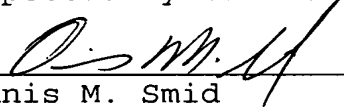
As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which the Examiner might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

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